

early bred Clergymen in it. it was not true, as I know
from 2 or 3 yrs residence there as a dom. Miss.

Yours, in love, Elbridge R. Howe.

Rev. A. A. Phelps, Cor. Sec. Mass. A. S. Soc.

Post.

~~Post.~~

much, till I had time to mature them, & find their bearings. You have frankly asked my opinion, & you have it in frankness.

As you say, there is a "deep, silent, & wide-spread jealousy of the Ministry," in which I can hardly understand to be so, there such an Address ought speedily to be published.

The Articles "Crisis," & "Forbearance" in the Spectator of yesterday will help to allay any improper feeling, & promote a knowledge of the duties of pastors & people. There will be, there need be, no secession from the Abolition ranks in consequence of Mr Fitch's Protest.

I wish I had time to ask Garrison what he means by charging the Mass of the Clergy with being bad men. If they were Catholics, or time serving worldlings, I should believe it. But he ought to explain or prove that assertion. I was offended at that before Mr Fitch adduced it in the 2^d protest. I suppose that Garrison wrote that in the heat of the moment. But my neighbor W. J. May has told me in reference to G. in general, that he weighs well his words. Can you, ^{not} then get Mr G. to tell what he means by that dreadful charge. The infidel will take its plain English meaning, & exult at what he may call a new proof for his own corrupt opinions. But the plain English is not fact. The Mass of the Clergy are not bad men. Even in Illinois 12 yrs ago when it was a frontier State, & had scarce two regu

led you to suppose there is more "loading it over God's
heritage," than there really is? I do not remember
seeing ^{any thing of it} ~~in~~ any distinct Association, which are gener-
ally for ministerial or personal improvement. I
assure you I have never seen so palpable an instance
of it as in the Pastoral Address, which did grieve
me, & I was forcibly reminded of the lack of objections, Dr. Emmons to
to the Assoc. Association.
But the first rising of it must be kept down.

You ask me how an Address or an Appeal to
the ministers and churches would do, signed by several
ministers. It would do well; & it would do good, provided: 1. it
defined clearly the various proprieties and rights of pastors &
people; 2, ~~it~~ ^{it} was not long, nor hastily got up; & 3, it be signed by
12 to 20 ^{ministers} ~~pastors~~ including Cyrus Maun, Mr Bingham of Framing-
ham, Bancroft Fowler, & especially Dr Packard. And I ought
to add 4. Dr P. or some father should read it & write it too perhaps,
or at least revise it.

It would ~~save~~ ^{not} prejudice, & needly ~~demur~~, if it should
seem to come from an officer of the Antislavery
Society, at the present time, but from a retired pastor.

Thus I have given you freely, or off hand,
my views, which in truth, I could not value

Elbridge G. Howe.



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Marshfield, East, 7th Sept. '37.

Dear Mr Phelps:

I thank you for your notice of my letter in the Spectator, and for the expression of your views in respect to the courtesy and deference due reciprocally between pastor & people, from one to the other. Your letter has but just come to hand, as it was directed to, & came thro' the Marshfield, instead of the East Marshfield office.

I wish to answer you at length, & in such a way that it might, by publication in the Spectator, keep up the discussion, ^{till} the whole matter is better understood than it is. Other duties will prevent, especially a dedication here, for 10 days.

Meantime I will say, that I approved of your views in your reply to Fitch, as to the reading of notices, & I much approve your sentiments in general in the letter ^{see} today. If I were competent to make any criticism, or rather, if I could ask you a question, I should say, have not those portions of the laity you have come in contact with been over jealous, as is natural, and have not their expressions